



Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Early Head Start & Child Care
335588 E. 750 Road
Perkins, Ok 74059

February 22, 2021

Director of The Office of Child Care
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building, Fourth Floor, MS 4425
330 C ST S.W.
Washington, DC 20201
General Office number: (202) 690-6782
Fax: (202) 690-5600
General email: occ@acf.hhs.gov
Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ>

Ms. Jones

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma has not finalized a plan for the CRRSA funding but is working with tribal officials and program staff to develop an implementation plan that best addresses the needs of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma and the community in which it serves. We have outlined the following as possible ways for the program to expend funds:

We plan to use CRRSA funds for activities in the following categories:

1. Direct Services/Subsidies:

- Additional subsidy monies to allow for a greater service for families during this pandemic and as they struggle during center closures

2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

- Currently the program is assessing existing facilities to address COVID-19 related health issues and safety recommendations, including changing flooring, adding ultraviolet lights to HVAC system, and additional handwashing stations.

3. Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers

- Child Care providers have struggled to stay open due to the access to supplies, staffing, and community spread of the virus. Program is assessing ways to help sustain access to providers in our service area.

4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

- Program has discussed mentoring facilities to help build their capacity and increase their QRIS standing.

Sincerely,

/s/

Edgar B. Kent Jr.
Chairman
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
ekent@iowanation.org

/s/

Charissa Kerns
Interim Early Childhood Director
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
ckerns@iowanation.org

cc: Gwendolyn Jones, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region 6
Joey Bishop, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 6
Joshua Lee, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 10

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Overview: All CCDF lead agencies (states, territories, and tribes- including 102-477 tribes) will submit a letter of approximately TWO pages describing how they plan to use the funds provided by CRRSA. The law requires reports to be submitted by February 25, 2021 (which is 60 days after enactment). Email letters to your RPM and address it to the Director. We expect to acknowledge receipt of reports, but do not have a formal approval process.

Components: Letters must cover the following categories that align with the requirements and recommendations included in CRRSA:

- *Direct Services (Subsidies);*
- *Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices;*
- *Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers;*
- *Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic; and,*
- *Other.*

Lead agencies who have not yet determined how they will spend their CCDF CRRSA funds should indicate that and include a timeline and plan for deciding how they will be spent.

Revisions: These reports outline initial plans at the date of submission, but are not binding. Lead agencies may change how they plan to use their CCDF CRRSA funds after submitting their letters and do not have to submit a revised report. Those data will be collected through other means. Please keep in mind outcomes of CRRSA funded activities will be reported on, so ensure for data collection mechanisms prior to implementation of activities.